throughout the country and, as such, a few shortcomings here and there cannot be ruled out. Certain instances of blackmarketing in essential commodities like wheat, rice and sugar have also come to the knowledge of the Government. However, this Department does not maintain details of such irregularities against the Fair Price Shopkeepers in PDS. It is presumed that these details are being maintained by the concerned States/ UT Governments as the operational responsibility for implementation of PDS rests with the respective State/ UT Governments.

(c) and (d). Checking of malpractices is a continuous process. Central and State Governments are continuing their efforts to check malpractices effectively. The Central Government has enacted Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 to tackle such problems. The operational responsibility of proper distribution of PDS commodities as well as enforcement of EC Act, 1955 and PB Act, 1980 lies with the State Governments. The Union Government monitors enforcement operations of the State Governments/UT Administrations and advises them from time to time to intensify action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and similar legislation to check malpractices/blackmarketing of commodities meant for Public Distribution System. On this subject, the Union Minister for Civil Supplies has recently addressed a communication to the Chief Ministers/ Administrators of all the State Governments/UTs to activate their enforcement machinery and to take prompt action wherever instances of blackmarketing etc. come to their notice.

[English]

ED Agents

2453. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Extra Departmental Delivery Agents in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum from ED delivery agents for regularisation of their services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As on 31st March, 1996, the total number of Extra Departmental Delivery Agents in the country was 79,958.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Several Memorandums have been received in this office seeking improvements in the Service conditions and regularisation of the services of Ed agents including Extra Departmental Delivery Agents viz. grant of leave, pay-scales, increments, gratutiy, pension etc.

(d) The Memoranudm mentioned in (b) above have been considered from time to time and improvements wherever feasible made. A committee headed by Justice Talwar to look into all aspects of the service conditons of ED Agents has been apppinted. In the process two instalments of interim Reliefs have been sanctioned to the ED Agents.The quantum of Ex-gratia Gratuity has also been increased to Rs.6000/- recently. Several other improvemnts have also been made in the combined duty allowance paid to the ED Branch Postmasters and Stationery Allowance. 100% vacancies in Group 'D' Departmental Cadre and 50% vacnacies in Departmentla Postmen Cadre earmarked for outsiders are also offered to the Senior most eligiblie ED Agents. Such of the ED Agents as get recruited in Departmental Group 'D' and Postman Cadres become eligible for all the failcities and privileges applicable to the Departmental Employees.

However, the workload in the ED Post Offices reanges between two and five hours per day whereas Departmental Post Offices work for full eight hours. In view of this and other relevance considerations, namely, functional and financial, after careful examination it has not been considered feasible to regularise the services of all Extra Departmental Agents including Extra Departmental Delivery Agents.

Training Complex of FCI, Gurgaon

2454. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4064, dated August 23, 1994 and state:

(a) the detailed reasons for not completing and commissioning the Training Complex at Gurgaon by December 1995;

(b) the time limit by which the said work is proposed to be executed;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to compensate the losses suffered by the owners of the properties occupied by FCI at East of Kailash, New Delhi even after the expiry of the lease deed as far back as 14 years ago;

(d) whether the Government propose to investigate the matter and take action against the officials who are responsible for such an undue delay in vacating the above properties and not fulfilling their commitment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MIISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) At the time of preparation of preliminary estimate,

the consultants viz. M/s CPWD Consultancy services had assumed normal depth of foundations for all the structures. However, the results of the soil investigation conducted subsequently revealed that the depth of the foundation assumed as above would not be adequate due to encountering of soil with lower bearing capacity. The Consultants had therefore to adopt stronger foundations, as a result of which the qunatum of sub-structure works of all the buildings of the project has increased susbtantially.

The detailed estimates and structural drawings for the various buildings and services covered under the scope of the project could not be furnished by the CPWD Consultancy services in one go. This necessitated execution of the works of the project under different phases. As a consequence of the above two factors, the completion date of December 1995 fixed earlier also got extended.

(b) The revised date of completion of the said work is 31st December, 1996.

(c) As per the policy of the Food Corporation of India, an offer for increase of rent @ 25% (twenty five percent) w.e.f. 1.6.1992 has been made to the owners subject to execution of revised/fresh lease agreement.

(d) The matter does not warrant investigation.

(e) Does not arise.

New Post Offices in Villages of M.P.

2455. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices working in the rented accommodation in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for opening new post offices in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details of post offices working in rented accommodation in Madhya Pradesh postal circle, district-wise is given in the attached statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details of the proposals under consideration for opening new post offices in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97 are given below :-

S.No.	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices
1	2
1.	Bigaudi, District Satna
2.	Chinda, District Chhindwara
3.	Dubgawan, District Rewa
4.	Phulchur, District Balaghat
5.	Garhuprora, District Bilaspur
6.	Daukapa, District Bilaspur
7.	Parsada, District Bilaspur
8.	Esbeda, District Bastar

STATEMENT

Details of number of post offices working in rented accommodation in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise.

S. No.	Name of District	Post Offices in rented Buildings	
		Head Post offices	Sub-Post offices
1	2	3	4
1.	Balaghat	-	22
2.	Bastar	-	41
3.	Betul	-	17
4.	Bhind	-	17
5.	Bhopal	1	48
6.	Bilaspur	1	73
7.	Chhatarpur	-	20
8.	Chhindwara	-	25
9.	Damoh	-	15
10.	Datia	-	08
11.	Dewas	-	13
12.	Dhar	-	13
13.	Durg	1	48
14.	Guna	-	18
15.	Gwalior	-	38
16.	Hoshangabad	-	22
17.	Indore	-	56
18.	Jabalpur	-	80
19.	Jhabua	1	18
20.	Khandwa	-	32
21.	Khargone	-	23
22.	Mandla	-	14
23.	Mandsaur	-	35
24.	Morena	-	13
25.	Narsinghpur	-	16
26.	Panna	-	12
27.	Raigarh	-	27
28.	Raipur	-	51
29.	Raisn	-	13